

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05

MC-02 ( ISO ) W

----- 056054

R 060838Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1117

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP, PFOR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ACCUSES MUSLIMS OF ATROCITIES AND DENIES USE  
OF NAPALM

REF: A. MANILA 1121 (DAO SECRET 200321Z)

B. MANILA 1913

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MARCH 3 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT  
AND MILITARY COMMANDERS, GOVERNMENT RELEASES STATEMENT DE-  
TAILING MUSLIM REBEL ATROCITIES IN WHICH 319 CIVILIANS  
ALLEGEDLY KILLED AND 96 WOUNDED DURING PAST YEAR. AT SAME  
TIME PRESIDENT AGAIN DENIED THAT ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN USING  
NAPALM AS ALLEGED BY FOREIGN PRESS. ATROCITY CHARGES (ACCOM-  
PANIED BY RELEASE OF GORY PHOTOS ) ARE TRANSPARENTLY ONE-SIDED  
AND MAY BE PARTLY A RESPONSE TO EQUALLY ONE-SIDED REBEL  
CHARGES OF GOP ATROCITIES AIRED AT JIDDA TALKS IN JANU-  
ARY. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING MUCH BALLYHOOED BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT BY  
MILITARY COMMANDERS AT CAMP AGUINALDO ON MARCH 3, GOVERN-  
MENT RELEASED DETAILS ON ALLEGED MUSLIM ATROCITIES AND  
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TERRORISM IN WHICH 319 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 96 WOUNDED IN

SEPARTATE INCIDENTS DURING MARCH-DECEMBER 1974. ACCORDING GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY (PNA) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ENRILE SAID REBELS USUALLY LOOTED AND BURNED HOUSES, RAPED WOMEN BEFORE KILLING THEM AND MUTILATED VICTIMS. DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE RELEASED PHOTOS OF DECAPITATED CHILD VICTIMS. ALLEGATIONS GOT HEAVY PLAY IN MANILA PRESS INCLUDING FRONT PAGE PHOTO IN "BULLETIN TODAY" SHOWING IMAGE OF CHRIST BEHEADED BY REBELS.

2. SIMULTANEOUSLY PRESIDENT MARCOS PUBLICLY QUERIED AIR FORCE GENERAL BUENO ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT NAPALM USED AGAINST REBELS. BUENO SAID ONLY ONCE, IN EARLY 1973 WHEN TROOPS IN DANGER OF BEING OVERWHELMED. ACCORDING TO MALACANANG PRESS RELEASE, PRESIDENT REPLIED "YOU ARE DIRECTED NOT TO USE IT, EVEN IF YOU HAVE IT, NOW." SECDEF ENRILE FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT IAR POWER ONLY USED IN MOST URGENT SITUATIONS SUCH AS IN SUPPORT OF TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

3. COMMENT: IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT ABOVE STATEMENTS LESS THAN IMPARTIAL OR WHOLLY ACCURATE. ASSOCIATED PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT ONE CASE OF CHRISTIAN MASSACRE CITED BY GOVERNMENT WAS IN FACT CASE OF MUSLIMS BEING SHOT BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PARTICULAR CASE BUT ONE-SIDED PRESENTATIONS OF ATROCITIES IS PERHAPS PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO MNLF'S EQUALLY ONE-SIDED ALLEGATION OF GOVERNMENT ATROCITIES AIRED AT THE JIDDA TALKS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOVERNMENT CHARGES WILL AGGRAVATE COMMUNAL CONFLICT (WHICH MUSLIMS FEAR) BUT THEY WILL CERTAINLY DO NOTHING TO DETRACT FROM EXISTING INGRAINED CHRISTIAN ASSUMPTION THAT ALL MOROS ARE TREACHEROUS VILLAINS, AND MAKE TASK OF CONCILIATION (WHICH IS STILL PART OF GOP POLICY ) ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT FOR FIRST TIME PHILIPPINE PUBLIC HAS BEEN GIVEN FAIRLY ACCURATE MEASURE OF EXTENT OF VIOLENCE IN SOUTH (IF NOT OF WHO IS ACTUALLY DOING WHAT TO WHOM.) AS FOR NAPALM, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY DAO ASST. AIRATT HAS HAD REPORTS FROM PAF SOURCES AS LATE AS MID-FEBRUARY THAT THE PAF WAS MAKING AND EMPLOYING NAPALM WEAPONS. LESS CONTROVERSIAL FORMS OF GROUND-AIR SUPPORT ARE (CONTRARY TO ENRILE STATEMENT) BEING REGULARLY EMPLOYED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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